process of growth from the more commonly used All Saints' Litany; and that its use spread all over Italy until it almost supplanted the earlier litany. The fact that it does not appear in print until 1576 is the basis of a recent (1895) theory of Sauer, that the Lauretan Litany was brought to Loretto by pilgrims, for which he adduces further internal evidence. Our author, therefore, after stating that the litany was not known at Rome until 1587, concludes that the proof is irrefutable that it was not framed in that city and sent to Loretto, and devotes much space to internal evidence in support of his position. He makes close comparisons of Marian litanies existing previous to the Lauretan, and completes the book with citations of various litanies of the Virgin in their present form. It is the last and most valuable contribution to a subject of interest to students of litanies.— *Das evangelische Kirchenlied nach seiner geschichtlichen Entwickelung.* Von Johannes Westphal. (Leipzig: Dürr, 1901; pp. xvi + 198; M. 2.70.) Professor Westphal, in this little text-book, presents historically the development of song literature of the church from New Testament times to present German hymn writers. His topics are, respectively: "Church Song from its Start in Apostolic Times to the Beginning of the Reformation," "German Evangelical Church Song," and "Evangelical Church Song of the Reformed Church of the Separatists." The book is not an anthology, for with such a subject he is able merely to offer the briefest account of the various movements and to give to each writer a few words of biography and a discussion of his principal hymns without quoting them. The order and proportion of his material and the significance of his annotations make the book a valuable aid to the study of German hymn literature. A topical appendix of the most valuable pre-Reformation hymns, a bibliography, and indices of hymns and authors complete the book.— GEO. C. GOW.

A Book of Common Worship. Prepared under Direction of the New York State Conference of Religion by a Committee on the Possibilities of Common Worship. (New York: Putnam, 1900; pp. x + 418; $1.) The committee which prepared this book consisted of R. Heber Newton, Gustav Gottheil, and Thomas R. Slicer. They have searched through the various religious books of ethnic, Jewish, and Christian literature for the gems of morality and religion, whether prayers, hymns, or Scripture passages, arranged them under suitable rubrics, and published them in this handy and neat volume. The Jewish and

Christian Scripture selections are kept separate from the ethnic scriptures. The source of each quotation is indicated in an elaborate index. As a convenient collection of the best thoughts on the highest themes drawn from world-literature, it will be found useful to everyone, even though the extent of its service in religious assemblies may prove to be limited.— GEO. S. GOODSPEED.

The Sunny Side of Christianity, by Charles H. Parkhurst (Chicago : Revell, 1901 ; pp. 123 ; $0.60, *net*) is a glowing treatment of the vital principle of love in the Christian's life. It shows how love melts mountains of difficulty, lets sunshine into the dark avenues of life, and opens before the Christian untold possibilities for good. The book is full of dynamic energy.—IRA M. PRICE.

Times of Retirement: Devotional Meditations. By George Matheson. (Chicago : Revell; pp. 301; $1.25, *net*.) The blind preacher of Scotland enjoys a deserved popularity. He is at his best in devotional sermonettes, such as appear in this volume. While written for times of retirement, they are very brief, intended to be read quickly and thought of afterward. Each begins with a little meditation or homily on a Scripture text and merges into a prayer of aspiration. The volume contains a biographical sketch by Rev. D. MacMillan, editor of the *Saint Andrew*, the Scotch periodical to which originally these little sermons were contributed.—*Christ and Life*. By Robert E. Speer. (Chicago : Revell, 1901; pp. 230 ; $1, *net*.) Mr. Speer is a very sane and helpful writer on practical religious topics. The twenty-three chapters which compose this book have all appeared in print before, in various religious publications. They are brief, sensible articles, especially helpful to young people, and well worth preserving in this form.—W. E. BARTON.

The Things Above. By George G. Findlay. (London : Kelly, 1901; pp. 256; 2s. 6d.) This volume is one of the second series of "Helps Heavenward," edited by W. L. Watkinson and Arthur E. Gregory. "Coming to Mount Zion," "Maran Atha," "The Ascension of Jesus," are chapter titles taken at random which indicate the scope and spirit of the book. It belongs to the general type of millenarian literature. It regards the scientific and social tendency of the present age as a tendency away from the pure spirit of Christianity. It speaks of this "Sadducean age which forgets or disbelieves in the